

**Submission  
No 319**

## **INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

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Crown land should be under the stewardship of the traditional owners who should have veto rights over any proposed sale or charging out of Crown lands. Local aboriginal land councils should have control over the usage of a significant proportion of Crown lands on their country. Without a treaty this land remains stolen. Governments in the meantime have a duty to ensure that Crown lands are utilised for citizens and given over to uses that enhance community, environment, heritage, public education and culture. In alpha cities like Sydney it is often impossible for people who were born here to afford much beyond rent. Leaving is not an option and being trapped in an unaffordable city with no places to be included and participate in activities leads to disenfranchisement and social problems. The cost of living is so high in alpha cities that public open space, free galleries and cultural institutions, sporting fields, community spaces (halls, workshops) and areas that promote biodiversity and regeneration of native ecology are vital to the well being of citizens and the environment they inhabit. Children, the disabled and the elderly need to be considered and prioritized in any usage planning and all marginalised groups should be incorporated into the urban fabric without isolating them in ghettos. Mining rights on Crown lands should never be sold. Public land should not be used as an income stream in annual budgets.